prioritisation already received from the States and the lakes identified under the Study.

Wildlife Protection Act

904. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been reports of widespread violation of the Wild Life Protection Act by certain State Governments; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps Government are taking to prevent this and ensure protection of our wildlife heritage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There are reports of few instances of the violation of the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 by States.

(b) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for the prevention of such violations and to ensure protection of our wildlife heritage. Hon'ble Supreme Court has also prohibited the removal of dead, diseased, dying or wind fallen trees, drift wood and grasses, etc. from any National Park or Sanctuary. In addition, the Hon'ble Court has also given directives to regulate the diversion of National park and Sanctuary area for non forestry purposes.

Policy to check devastation of Mangrove forests

905. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to develop a uniform policy to check devastation of Mangrove forests in the country;

(b) the details of protective measures already in place for Mangrove forests protection;

(c) the funds allotted for this purpose in 2003-04;

(d) whether any international assistance has been sought for protection of Mangrove forests; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government seek to sustain Mangrove forests in the country by both regulatory and promotional measures. The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (1991) under the Environmental Protection Act (1986) recognizes the mangrove areas as ecologically sensitive and categorizes them as CRZ-I which implies that these areas are afforded protection of the highest order. Under the promotional measures, the Government has identified 35 Mangrove areas on a country-wide basis for intensive conservation and management.

(c) An assistance of Rs. 327.02 lakhs has been given for Mangrove areas in the country during 2003-2004 for activities like survey and demarcation, afforestation, restoration and protection measures and education and awareness.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Area under various reserve

906. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of area reserved under various laws as wildlife sanctuary, tiger reserve, bio-sphere reserve and so on, State-wise;

(b) whether Government are aware that the livelihood of a large number of people has been adversely affected by such reservation; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to mitigate the hardship of such population, and more particularly of the tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The extent of area reserved under various wildlife sanctuaries/national parks/bio-sphere reserves is given in the Statement-I and -II (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Setting-up of wildlife sanctuaries/national parks introduces certain statutory and regulatory measures on the use of the areas covered by them. In order to mitigate the impacts of such measures on local people and tribals special interventions like eco-development inputs are provided with participatory planning with the involvement of people.